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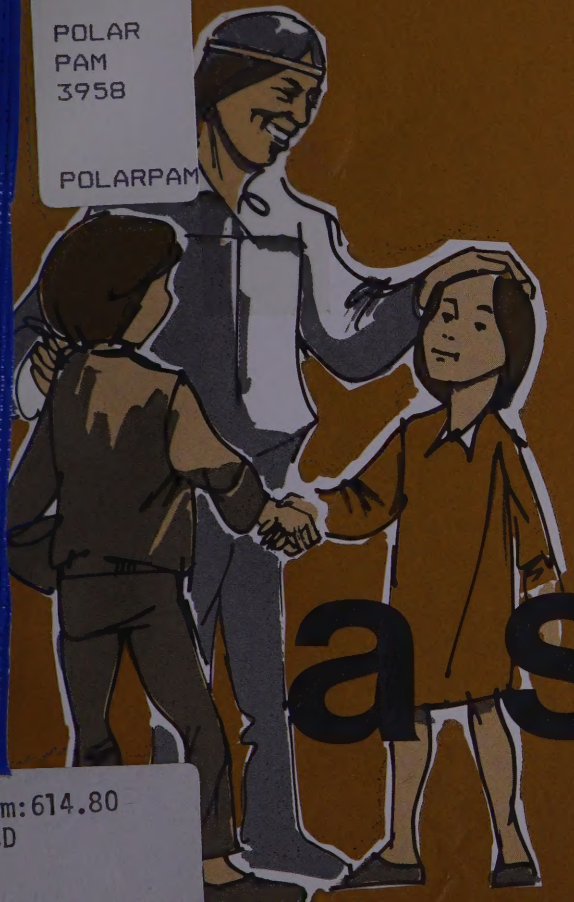

a safe bet

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A SAFE BET

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It was a dull, rainy day, and Tim and Susan had nothing to do. Just then their friend Bob arrived.

"Hi Bob." said Susan. "Come in and have some hot chocolate while we think of something to do today ... that is if Tim can get the lid off the chocolate can."

"That sounds good," said Bob, "but Tim, you shouldn't use a knife to pry that lid off. The knife could slip and cut you. Use a spoon instead."

"Why don't you two look around the house for other things that are not safe," suggested Bob.

"Okay!" said the children. "I bet I'll find more than Susan finds" challenged Tim.

"I bet you won't" said Susan. "Look! Tim didn't turn the pot handle in toward the back of the stove. Someone could knock this over and get burned."

"These things are poison. They should be stored on a high shelf where you can't reach them."

"This cupboard door should be closed. You could bump your head if you stood up quickly."

"Scissors should be kept out of the reach of small children" Susan said. "I found four unsafe things in the kitchen. I wonder if the bedrooms are safe."

"An ashtray! I hope Mom wasn't smoking in bed. That's really dangerous," Susan said.

"Plastic bags should be tied in a knot and thrown away. A child could put one over his head and not be able to breathe".

"I'll pick up this button. The baby puts everything into his mouth, and he could choke on this. "Tim," Susan called "I found seven things so far that are unsafe."

"I'll look in the bathroom." said Tim. "That's where most accidents happen."

"Someone could slip in this water. I'll wipe it up."

"And this electric radio shouldn't be in here. Someone could get a bad shock." Tim said.

"Wow! Look at this Bob," called Tim "Someone left a razor blade on the sink. This should be kept in a special container so no one gets cut."

Tim, Bob and Susan met in the living room where Tim noticed a lamp cord trailing across the floor. "Someone could trip on this" he said, moving the lamp closer to the outlet.

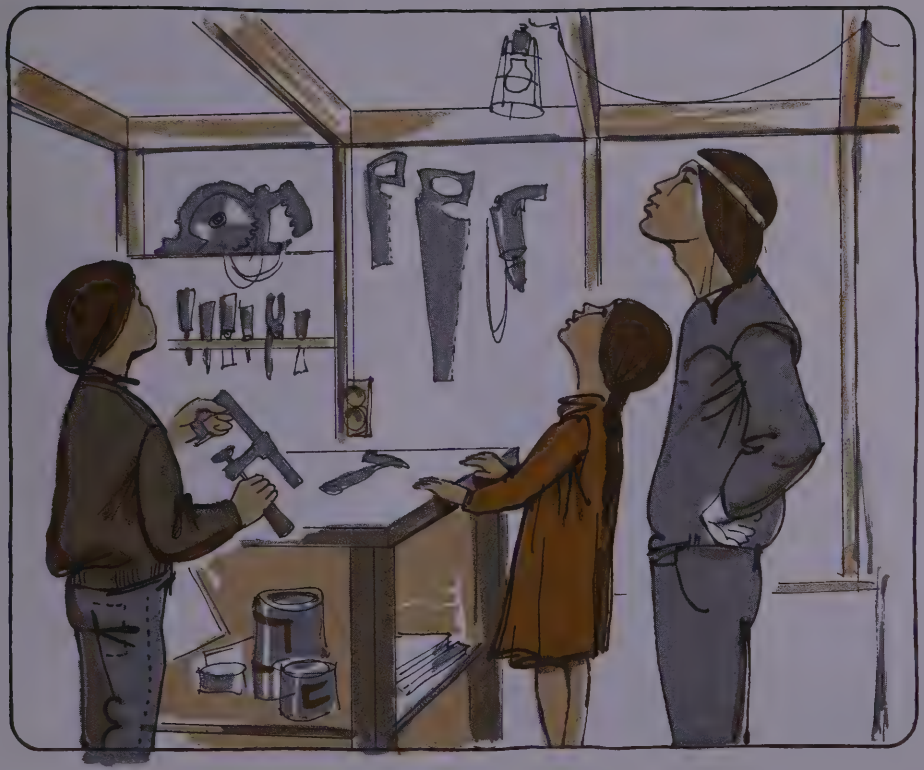
"And look! This outlet has too many plugs in it. That could cause a fire!" Tim said.

"That's true." said Bob, removing two of the plugs. "It looks like you are both finding lots of dangerous things that can be found in many homes. Let's check the storage area next."

"This stair wobbles!" said Tim. "I'll ask Dad to fix it."

"This old fridge could be a death trap if a child climbed inside." Bob warned. "The door should be locked or taken off."

"Let's push these boxes out of the way." suggested Tim. "Someone could trip on them. That's seven unsafe things I've found Susan!"



"I think it would be safer in here if the lighting were better." said Susan. "Especially over here where Mom and Dad work sometimes."

"Do you see this?" asked Bob "Your father has a pair of safety glasses to protect his eyes when he is working. He also has safety boots and thick gloves to protect his feet and hands when he's doing heavy work."

"Look, it has stopped raining." said Bob "Let's look outside now."

"What sorts of things should we look for outside?" the children asked.

"We should make sure that dangerous things are stored away from where children might play." Bob said.

"We should also make sure that leaves, grass and litter don't pile up around the house. They could be a fire hazard."

"We should check for wear or damage to swings or children's toys," Bob said. "The rope on this swing looks new and strong. It seems to be safe."

"So," Bob asked, "Which of you won the bet? Who found the most safety hazards?"

"I've lost count!" laughed Susan. "But I sure learned a lot about making our home a safer place to live in."

"So did I." Tim agreed.

"Well in that case," said Bob, "I guess we can safely say that you are both winners!"

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